



USAID | MACEDONIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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PRESS RELEASE

Community of Resen celebrate the first of 100 schools to be renovated by USAID

In addition to the start of the new school year, this October the primary school students in the municipality of Resen will have more reasons to be happy. The old primary school "Mite Bogoevski" in Resen received new windows, thanks to the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia. This school is the third school of 100 primary schools that USAID will renovate throughout Macedonia.

The school building is very old and, although it has been reconstructed several times, the need for new renovation work was more than welcomed. USAID's Primary Education Project (PEP) replaced all 52 old wooden windows with new energy efficient aluminum windows. USAID's contribution to the school was approximately \$35,000. The municipality also provided significant cost share for the renovation work.

"When I look at your new windows I see many things. I see classrooms that provide a better learning environment for students. I see windows that will save energy, keep this school warmer during the winter, and help reduce the heating bill for the municipality. Those are savings that can be reinvested back into education.

USAID has made an investment to improve your schools and many other schools throughout Macedonia. The American people care about education in Macedonia. But the school is in your hands and I urge you to continue taking care of your school in the future so that many more students can benefit." said Michael Latham, the U.S. Embassy's Economic Officer, during his opening remarks in front of the school buildings in Resen, Thursday, October 4th, 2007.

Due to the old and damaged wooden windows the schools have lost as much as 30% of their heat during each heating season. This has placed an additional burden on municipal budgets, as they are now responsible for maintenance of school buildings. It is planned that savings from the energy efficient windows can be invested by the municipality into other areas that will improve education.

"The need for renovation was a crucial for the people of the municipality of Resen, so that new generations will have conditions for proper education." said Dimitar Buzlevski, the Mayor of Resen Municipality. "Having the local community team join together with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) enabled the project to be carried out swiftly. I extend my sincere gratitude to the American People for their understanding and support on behalf of the citizens and pupils of Resen."

USAID/PEP will renovate up to 100 primary schools through 2011. Applications for the second phase of 32 schools to be renovated are currently being accepted and are available online at www.pep.org.mk. PEP's school renovations component supports the creation of

better learning environments and the decentralization of school facilities to municipal governments.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit www.USAID.org.mk.